



Testimony in Support of SB 126
Testimony by Citizens Campaign for the Environment
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February 28, 2014
Hartford, CT

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, distinguished members of the Public Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

My name is Louis Burch, program coordinator for Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE). Supported by over 80,000 members in Connecticut and New York State, CCE works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and the natural environment. CCE would like to offer the following testimony in support of Senate Bill 126:

SB 126- AAC Children's Exposure to Toxic Chemicals

Children's products can contain a variety of over 80,000 chemicals, many of which are not thoroughly researched and/or regulated. Currently, toxic chemicals are used in the production of toys, bedding, and even baby clothes. Children are especially vulnerable to the deleterious effects of toxic chemicals due to their small size and developing bodies, their proximity to the ground, and their tendency to engage in frequent hand-to-mouth behaviors.

The growing body of peer reviewed scientific evidence indicates a strong link between exposure to toxic chemicals in consumer products with the dramatic rise in developmental and neurological disorders we have seen in recent decades, including Autism spectrum disorders and ADHD. Research even shows significant links between toxic-chemical exposure, beginning in the womb, and a variety of cancers, including brain cancer and leukemia. This has led to a growing consensus among the science and health communities that exposure to toxic chemicals is detrimental to the health and development of young children, and should be avoided wherever possible.

Senate Bill 126 is an important component in the overarching strategy to reduce children's exposure to toxic chemicals in the home environment. By requiring the CT Department of Public Health to identify chemicals of high concern to children based on toxicity, this legislation will help develop a comprehensive framework to identifying and eliminating dangerous exposures before they happen. The requirement for DPH to review and make recommendations to the legislature every 2 years will ensure that institutional knowledge about dangerous toxins remains up-to-date, as new products and new chemicals of concern emerge. Connecticut based

businesses that use toxic chemicals will be encouraged to work in close collaboration with the *Chemical Innovations Institute* to find safe, non-toxic alternatives, which will advance green chemistry innovation and create jobs in our state.

CCE strongly believes that parents have a right to know what kinds of chemicals are in the products they choose for their children. This legislation will improve families' abilities to make educated decisions about which children's products are safe, while incentivizing manufacturers to seek out new, non-toxic alternatives for the products that they sell. **CCE is strongly supportive of SB 126, and respectfully urges this committee to protect children's health by passing this legislation out of committee as soon as possible.**

On behalf of our members in Connecticut, we appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and look forward to working with you on this important issue.